

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5318

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WA, PINT

SUBJ: NATIONAL PARTY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA REMAINS UNITED

REFS: PRETORIA 3594, PRETORIA 3702

1. DESPITE PREDICTIONS OF A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN LIBERALS LED BY DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN DIRK MUDGE, AND CONSERVATIVES, LED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN A.H. DU PLESSIS AND THE OTHER DEPUTY CHAIRMAN EBEN VAN ZIJL, THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SWA REELECTED ALL THREE TO THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS DURING THE OPENING HOURS OF THE CONGRESS ON AUGUST 24. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE BOTHA'S KEYNOTE SPEECH WAS A REPETITION OF STANDING SAG PRONOUNCEMENTS REGARDING

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SWA. BOTHA SPOKE FROM NOTES, AND NO TEXT OF HIS SPEECH

IS YET AVAILABLE. DU PLESSIS CHIDED PRESSMEN FOR HAVING REPORTED AND OTHERWISE STIMULATED RUMORS THAT THERE WERE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE PARTY WHICH COULD RESULT IN "A STORMY SESSION". HE REMINDED DELEGATES THAT ACTION BY THE SAG PARLIAMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY CHANGE IN RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SWA AND SA, AND SAID TALK OF A CHANGE IN CONNECTION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SWA AND THE SANP WAS "PRESUMPTUOUS AND PREMATURE". DU PLESSIS NOTED THAT THE PRESSING QUESTIONS OCCUPYING DELEGATES' MINDS WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN CLOSED SESSION.

2. COMMENT: THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE SWA-NP CONGRESS TOLD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE PARTY. THERE ARE NO DOUBT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE DU PLESSIS-VAN ZIJL AND MUDGE FACTIONS OVER LEADERSHIP AND HOW TO MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE, BUT WITHIN AFRIKANERDOM, PARTY UNITY AND DISCIPLINE OVERRIDES. IN RETROSPECT WE BELIEVE VORSTER INTERVENED IN THE SWA NATIONAL PARTY DUST UP TO DECIDE THAT (1) THE WHITE DELEGATION WOULD COOPERATE WITH BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATIONS TO COMPOSE THE STATEMENT PUT OUT BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 18 AND (2) SWA-NP LEADERSHIP WOULD REMAIN AS CONSTITUTED IN ORDER TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF A SPLIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DU PLESSIS SAW VORSTER ON AUGUST 18 BEFORE THE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED. THE AMBIGUITY OF THE STATEMENT, WHICH THE SAG HAS YET TO PUBLICLY ENDORSE, PLUS THE RE-ELECTION OF DU PLESSIS AND VAN ZIJL CAN BE USED TO REASSURE FEARFUL WHITES THAT THE SAG IS CONTINUING ALONG THE GRADUATED COURSE IT HAS SET FOR SWA INDEPENDENCE AND WILL NOT BE STAMPEDED INTO HASTY MOVES ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATIONS REACT TO THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DECISIONS AND WHAT MUDGE WILL DO ABOUT HIS PROFESSED INTENTIONS TO MOVE QUICKLY WITH THE BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATIONS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

BOWDLER

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